

CLAIMS:

1. Stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) for reinforcing a burner part (9) of a fluorescent lamp (4) comprising a number of glass tubes (5) connected by at least one bridge part (6) so as to form a discharge path through the tubes (5) between two electrodes which are each provided in one of the tubes (5), characterized in that the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13)
5 comprises at least one plastic holder provided with at least two separate contact surfaces (2, 3, 11) shaped to fit the burner part (9) of the fluorescent lamp (4) in at least two separate locations.
2. Stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) according to claim 1, characterized in that at
10 least one of the contact surfaces (2, 3, 11) forms a housing for receiving a burner part (9), the housing having an aperture to give the burner part (9) access to the housing, which opening has a width that is smaller than a maximum clearance provided in the housing.
3. Stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that
15 the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) is made of a flexible material and the contact surface (2, 3, 11) forms a housing to snap-fit on a burner part (9).
4. Stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) according to one of the preceding claims,
20 characterized in that the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) comprises at least one bumper part (12) that projects from the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13).
5. Stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) is an injection-molded plastic part.
- 25 6. Stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) also comprises a light-influencing device (14).

7. Fluorescent lamp (4) with a burner part (9) comprising a number of glass tubes (5) connected by at least one bridge part (6) so as to form a discharge path through the tubes (5) between two electrodes which are each provided in one of the tubes (5), characterized in that the fluorescent lamp (4) also comprises a stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) according one of the previous claims, the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) being connected to the burner part (9) of the fluorescent lamp (4) in a dimensionally stable manner, thus stabilizing the burner part (9).
8. Fluorescent lamp (4) according to claim 7, characterized in that the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) is connected to the burner part (9) of the fluorescent lamp (4) in a dimensionally stable manner without exerting a pre-load on the burner part (9).
9. Fluorescent lamp (4) according to claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) is located on the burner part (9) opposite to the side of the burner part (9) connected to a lamp base (7).
10. Fluorescent lamp (4) according to one of the claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the fluorescent lamp (4) is provided with at least two stabilizing devices (1, 10, 13) according to one of the claims 1 to 6.
11. Fluorescent lamp (4) according to one of the claims 7 to 10, characterized in that the fluorescent lamp (4) is provided with a stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) carrying a light-influencing device (14).
12. Method of reinforcing a burner part (9) of a fluorescent lamp (4) comprising a number of glass tubes (5) connected by respective bridge parts (6) so as to form a discharge path through the tubes (5) between two electrodes which are each provided in one of the tubes (5), characterized in that, after the burner part (9) of the fluorescent lamp (4) has been manufactured through connection of a number of glass tubes (5) to at least one bridge part (6), said bridge part (6) is provided with a stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) according one of the claims 1 to 6.
13. Method according to claim 12, characterized in that the stabilizing device (1, 10, 13) is connected to the burner part (9) of the fluorescent lamp (4) by a snap connection.